Message Text

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O 232211Z JUN 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, EEWT, RO

SUBJECT: MOOD OF SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE ON EVE ROMANIAN HEARINGS

REFERENCE: BARNES-BURGESS TELECON JUNE 23.

- 1. FOLLOWING ASSESSMENT OF SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE'S ATTITUDE TOWARD JUNE 27 HEARING ON ROMANIAN MFN IS BASED ON OUR PERSONAL AND PHONE CONTACTS WITH VARIOUS MEMBERS AND STAFFERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE SUBCOMMITTEE AND COMMENTS FROM OTHER SENATE STAFFERS NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE HEARINGS. OVERALL, WE ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT HEARINGS WILL CONCLUDE THAT ROMANIAN EMIGRATION PERFORMANCE DOES NOT WARRANT CUTOFF OF SECTION 402 WAIVER.
- 2. SENATOR MOYNIHAN, A NEW MEMBER OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE, HAS REPORTEDLY TAKEN A STRONG INTEREST IN HEARINGS. ONE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF HIS STAFFERS SUGGESTS THAT HE IS NOT CONVINCED THAT ROMANIAN PERFORMANCE ON EMIGRATION MEETS REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 402. NEVERTHELESS, WE SUSPECT THAT MOYNIHAN WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO BLOCK EXTENSION.

3. RIBICOFF CLEARLY HAS NO DESIRE TO BLOCK MFN FOR ROMANIA BUT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY ADDRESS SOME POINTED QUESTIONS

ON EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL AND ROMANIAN EMIGRATION PROCEDURES. SUBCOMMITTEE STAFFERS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THESE TWO TOPICS WILL BE FOCUS OF COMMITTEE'S QUESTIONING.

3. ROMANIAN EMBASSY HAS ENGAGED IN USUAL ACTIVE LOBBYING ROLE WITH VARIOUS SENATORS (INCLUDING NICOLAE LUNCHES WITH RIBICOFF AND ROTH). EMBASSY SEEMS FAIRLY CONFIDENT THAT THERE WILL BE NO BOMB-SHELLS BUT WE HAVE DONE OUR BEST TO CAUTION THEM ON ABOVE TWO SUBJECTS WHICH ARE OF GREAT CONCERN TO CONGRESS. CHRISTOPHER

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